

Application No. : 10/623,759
Amtd. Dated : June 9, 2005
Reply To O.A. Of : March 9, 2005

Amendments To The Claims

The listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. The listing of claims presents each claim with its respective status shown in parentheses. Only those claims being amended herein show their changes in highlighted form, i.e., insertions appear as underlined text (e.g., insertions) while deletions appear as strikethrough text (e.g., ~~deletions~~). All previously amended claims appear as clean text.

1. (Original) A shelf management system for storing and displaying products on a shelf, the shelf comprising a front and a support surface that extends over a length of the shelf, said shelf management system comprising:

a product track extending generally transverse to the length of the shelf and being adapted to be positioned in multiple locations along the length of the shelf;

a pusher block slidably attached to said product track;

a biasing member urging said pusher block toward an end of said product track that is disposed closest to the front of the shelf;

a carrier plate adapted to be positioned between at least a portion of said product track and said support surface of the shelf, said carrier plate comprising a pair of upstanding members that together define a slot,

a panel comprising a lower portion and an upper portion, said upper portion comprising a flange that extends over at least a portion of said product track and said lower portion being adapted to be engaged within said slot.

2. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the upstanding members of said carrier plate includes a flange for retaining the lower portion of the panel within said slot.

3. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the lower portion of the panel further comprises a flange for retaining said lower portion of said panel in said slot.

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4. (Original) The system of Claim 1 further comprising a second product track, said panel sized to span a distance between said product track and said second product track.

5. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said lower portion of said panel comprises at least one protuberance that engages within said slot of said carrier.

6. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein said carrier is made of extruded plastic.

7. (Currently Amended) A modular display rack comprising:

a product track comprising a base and a pair of raised rails that extend upward from said base;

a pusher block slidably attached to said pair of raised rails;

a biasing member abutting a portion of said pusher block;

a first and second carrier, at least one of the carriers having a longitudinal slot adapted to extend transversely to said product track, said carrier first and second carriers also comprising a support portion adapted to underlie and support at least a respective one of a forward portion and a rearward portion of said product track;

a removable panel having a lower portion adapted to be received in a slot of said carrier.

8. (Original) The rack of Claim 7, wherein said slot of said carrier comprises a flange adapted to substantially limit the lower portion of the panel from being vertically removed from said slot.

9. (Original) The rack of Claim 8, wherein the lower portion of the panel further comprises a flange adapted to substantially limit the lower portion of the panel from being vertically removed from said slot.

10. (Original) The rack of Claim 7, wherein said panel is frictionally retained within said slot of said carrier.

11. (Original) The rack of Claim 10, wherein said carrier is positioned at a front end of said product track.

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12. (Original) The rack of Claim 11, wherein said panel is configured to retain products that abut said barrier.

13. (Original) The rack of Claim 7, wherein said panel is sized to extend beyond a plurality of product tracks.

14. (Currently Amended) A horizontally separable front barrier for use with a product display rack, said barrier comprising:

a carrier comprising a base portion and a spaced pair of walls extending upward from said base, said walls forming a channel;

a panel comprising a lower portion sized and configured to be received in said channel of said carrier and an upper portion that extends upward from said lower portion and that comprises a flange that extends generally normal to said spaced pair of walls of said carrier, said flange comprising a surface that extends generally parallel with said spaced pair of walls of said carrier and configured to contact a surface of a product track.

15. (Original) The barrier of Claim 14, wherein said base is configured to underlie at least a portion of a product display track.

16. (Original) The barrier of Claim 14, wherein said lower portion of said panel is frictionally retained within said channel of said carrier.

17. (Original) The barrier of Claim 14, wherein said lower portion of said barrier comprises a protuberance sized to cause an interference fit within said channel.

18. (Original) The barrier of Claim 14, wherein the panel and the carrier comprise inter-engaging structures adapted to substantially prevent the panel from being vertically removed from the channel.

19. (Original) The barrier of Claim 18, wherein said inter-engaging structures are further adapted to allow the panel to be supported in a position in which said upper portion is substantially perpendicular to at least one of said spaced walls.

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20. (Currently Amended) A method of installing a shelf management system comprising:

securing a panel carrier to a self shelf;

positioning at least one product supporting and feeding assembly over a portion of said panel carrier; and

securing a front panel over a portion of said at least one assembly and within a portion of said panel carrier by vertical movement of the front panel into engagement with the assembly.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 20, further comprising securing a second panel carrier to said shelf, positioning said at least one assembly over a portion of said second panel carrier and securing a rear panel over a portion of said at least one assembly and within a portion of said panel carrier.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 20, further comprising spacing a first of said at least one assembly from a second of said at least one assembly by a desired distance.